



Cherry Industry Administrative Board Sets Preliminary Free and Restricted Percentages

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dewitt, MI – The Cherry Industry Administrative Board (CIAB) representing the Federal marketing order for red tart cherries, held its annual Marketing Policy meeting June 21, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI. At this meeting the CIAB is charged with recommending to United States Department of Agriculture, the percentage of the tart cherry crop that should be considered “free” and that which should be “restricted” under the terms of the marketing order. “Preliminary” percentages are determined at this time. “Final” percentages will be determined in September.

The Board, using the Optimum Supply Formula (OSF) set forth in the order, calculated the percent of the current year’s production that is “free” tonnage and that which is “restricted”. “Free” tonnage is production of the current year which can be marketed by handlers of tart cherries without any limitations. “Restricted” tonnage is that which must either be retained by handlers in inventory or diverted by handlers into other market opportunities. The CIAB concluded that the preliminary “free” percentage be set at 100% and the preliminary “restricted” percentage be set at 0%.

The Board considered numerous factors concerning the supply of and demand for red tart cherry products for the upcoming season. The CIAB also considered such factors as the average annual volume of sales, the lack of reserve inventory, the carry-in into the current year and the target carry-out for the following season.

These preliminary percentages are calculated using the Board’s estimate of harvest as established by the Optimum Supply Formula (OSF). The Board projected a national crop of 262.3 million pounds of red tart cherries. This estimate is an increase of 52% from the actual production of 172.3 million pounds of red tart cherries harvested last crop year.

“Final” percentages will be recommended to United States Department of Agriculture based on the actual production of tart cherries. Upon the conclusion of the harvest of red tart cherries, the CIAB will reconvene in Grand Rapids, MI to recommend the final “free” and “restricted” percentages for crop year 2022/23. The CIAB meeting to determine the final percentages will be held September 8, 2022.

